

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

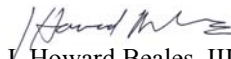
Various public databases suggest that the following IP address, [insert number], may be an open relay mail server. If that is the case, this letter contains important information for you that may affect your organization's email server and online presence.

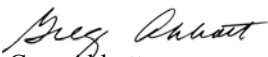
Open relays are computers (e-mail servers) that allow any other computer in the world to "bounce" or route e-mail through them to other Internet mail addresses. Open relays often are exploited by people who flood the Internet with unsolicited commercial email, or spam. This creates problems for consumers worldwide, for law enforcement and for your organization. For example, it may appear to recipients of the spam that the spam is coming from your system; your mail server and Internet service resources may be utilized by unknown third parties; your network connections may become clogged with traffic; your administrative costs may increase; or your Internet Service Provider may shut down your Internet service. Fixing your open relay mail server will help you protect your system from being misused.

The Federal Trade Commission is the U.S. government agency charged with protecting consumers against unfair, deceptive or fraudulent practices. The Commission, along with its partners, is sending you this advisory explaining the problems associated with open relay mail servers and how you can prevent these problems from affecting you or your organization. We are joined in this effort by our domestic partners, the Attorneys General of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas; the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico; the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; the Securities and Exchange Commission's Ft. Worth Office; and the Richardson, Texas Police Department. From the international community, we are joined by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission; Industry Canada; Servicio Nacional del Consumidor (SERNAC); and the Japanese Delegation to OECD Committee on Consumer Policy.


For more information about open relays please review our Business Alert located at <http://www.ftc.gov/openrelay>. If your server is an open relay, and you are interested in closing it, please follow the step-by-step instructions on remedying the problem.

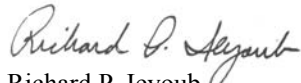
If you have any questions about the instructions-or this letter-please contact relay@ftc.gov.

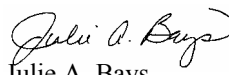

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Federal Trade Commission



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Attorney General
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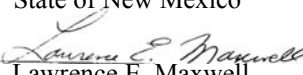

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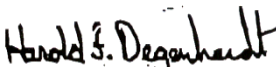

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